Committee under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister has given a suggestion to constitute Road Safety Boards at Centre and State level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) On the recommendations of the Committee on Infrastructure this Ministry had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sunder, former Secretary of the then Ministry of Surface Transport to deliberate and make recommendations for setting up an effective and dedicated agency for Road Safety and Traffic Management. The Committee submitted its report on 20.2.2007. The main recommendations of the Committee *inter alia* include creation of National Road Safety & Traffic Management Board through an Act of the Parliament. The board would have advisory as well as regulatory functions. Under regulatory functions the board would set standards for the motor vehicles, and set standards for designing roads. In its advisory role, the board will assist Central Government in the matters relating to road safety and traffic management and would promote road safety research, road user behaviour strategies, lay guidelines for establishing medical care and rehabilitation etc. Enabling provision has been made for creation of similar bodies at State level. The committee has also recommended earmarking of at least 1% of the total proceeds of cess on diesel and petrol for road safety fund.

(c) Recommendations of the Committee have been circulated among the States/UTs and concerned Ministries/Departments for their comments before taking further necessary action.

Widening of Jalandhar-Pathankot NH

3162. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which work of widening of Jalandhar-Pathankot National Highway has so far been completed; and

(b) by when the entire stretch is likely to be widened as stipulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Length of widening to four lane of National Highway-1 A from Jalandhar to Pathankot (up to J&K Border) is 125.42,km. Out of this, widening to four lane of Jalandhar-Bhogpur section (2177km) has been completed.

(b) The entire stretch of Jalandhar-Pathankot Section is likely to be completed by December, 2008.

Quality of roads under Golden Quadrilateral

†3163. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the quality of road constructed under Golden Quadrilateral Scheme is checked;

(b) whether any deficiency regarding their construction has been found after checking the same; and

(c) if so, what measures have been adopted to remove those deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The quality control of the construction of four-laning works are monitored by Independent Consultants (who are generally International Consultants) appointed through International Competitive Bidding by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for supervision of the civil contract and who act as Engineer for administration of the contract. Quality standards for construction of the road is governed by "Specification for Road and Bridge Works" published by Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways/Indian Roads Congress and these specifications are-part of the ContractAgreement. Quality tests are regularly carried out at field laboratories by Supervision Consultants. Further, quality audits are also being carried out by NHAI.

(b) and (c) Whenever any deficiency or defects of not conforming to the technical specification in construction are found, remedial action is taken by the Engineer for rejection/replacement/rectification of work/material as per provision of the ContractAgreement. Similarly, defects detected during defect liability period (which is normally 12 months from the date of completion of the project) are also rectified by the contractor as part of the obligations as per contract.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.